GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:530
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to avoid accidents in the coal mines;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the government have any fool-proof system to avert accidents in the coal mines;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether with the increasing number of coal mine accidents, the Government have made any critical review of the existing system of monitoring the safety measures; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 530 for 24.4.2001 regarding accidents in coal mines.

Statutes for safety in coal mines laid down under Mines Act 1952 in Coal Mines Regulation 1957, Mines Rules etc., are mandatory guidelines for avoiding accidents. These are amended from time to time. In addition, DGMS issues circulars for safety measures. Over and above, recommendations of various committees/court of inquiry also give guidelines. Some of these recommendations have subsequently been incorporated in the statutes.

Moreover, various bodies like Standing Committee on Safety, Conferences on Safety in mines, CIL Safety Board, Tripartite Committees at Subsidiary Company level, Bipartite Committees at Area level, Mine level safety committees monitor the safety in coal mines. All suggestions/ guidelines in regard to safety measures given by these bodies are implemented to avoid accidents.

Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour enforces all the statutesSafety in coal mines is regularly monitored through intensive and quality inspection by DGMS, Internal Safety Organisations of Coal India and its subsidiaries, line management of coal companies. Any deficiencies in safety measures revealed from such inspections are rectified immediately with the objective of avoiding accidents.

The Government have taken a serious view of the increasing number of accidents in coal mines. In addition to strict compliance with requirement of mining safety laws the Government has suggested the following steps to check accidents and make mining work more safe.

1 . Coal extraction within 60 meters from water logged working in same seam or in overlying or underlying seams should be undertaken only with the approval by DGMS. The conditions as stipulated by DGMS will have to be followed strictly.

2. Check survey of all underground mines which are prone to water danger.

3. A committee consisting of senior officers constituted in each area will inspect the mines of the other area to ascertain the danger to the working districts and other workings of the mines due to inundation from surface as well as underground waters from the different areas of the same mine or of the neighbouring mines and also to ascertain danger of influx of noxious/ toxic gases as well fire damp into the working district of other workings either from the sealed off area of the same mine or of the other mines.

4. Strict enforcement of discipline.

5. Great emphasis to be given for quality inspection of the mines.

6. Extensive training programme to be arranged to train workers, supervisory staff and executives.

7. Maintaining of properly equipped and trained rescue services.